WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for producing from one of the optical isomers (optical isomer I) of an amino acid represented by Formula (1):

$$R\text{-}CH(NH_2)\text{-}COOH \quad (1)$$

(wherein R is an optionally substituted C1-C12 alkyl group, an optionally substituted C4-C8 cycloalkyl group or an optionally substituted C6-C14 aryl group) the other of the optical isomers (optical isomer II), said method comprising reacting a biological material which has an ability of converting said one of the optical isomers (optical isomer I) to said the other of the optical isomers (optical isomer II), the isomerism being on the basis of an assymetric carbon atom to which both of an amino group and a carboxyl group are bound and said ability being not inhibited seriously by an amino acid transferase inhibitor β-chloro-D-alanine, β-chloro-L-alanine or gabaculine, with said one of the optical isomers (optical isomer I).

2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said one of the optical isomers (optical isomer I) is a D-form and said the other of the optical isomers (optical isomer II) is a L-form.

3. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said one of the optical isomers (optical isomer I) with which said biological material is reacted is present in a mixture of said the other of the optical isomers (optical isomer II).

4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said biological material is a (whole) cell.

5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said biological material is one derived from a microorganism belonging to the genus Arthrobacter, Flavimonas, Klebsiella, Norcadia, Pseudomonas, Rhizobium,

Saccharopolyspora or Streptomyces.

6. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said biological material is one derived from a microorganism classified to Arthrobacter pascens, Flavimonas oryzihabitans, Klebsiella planticola, Nocardia diaphanozonaria, Pseudomonas chlororaphis, Pseudomonas oleovorans, Pseudomonas oxalaticus, Pseudomonas taetrolens, Rhizobium meliloti, Saccharopolyspora hirsuta or Streptomyces roseus.

7. The method according to Claim 1, wherein said biological material is one derived from Arthrobacter pascens strain IFO12139, Flavimonas oryzihabitans strain JCM2952, Klebsiella planticola strain JCM7251, Nocardia diaphanozonaria strain JCM3208, Pseudomonas chlororaphis strain IFO3521, Pseudomonas oleovorans strain IFO13583, Pseudomonas oxalaticus strain IFO13593, Pseudomonas taetrolens strain IFO3460, Rhizobium meliloti strain IFO14782, Saccharopolyspora hirsuta subsp.kobensis strain JCM9109 or Streptomyces roseus strain IFO12818.

8. A method for improving the optical purity of an amino acid represented by Formula (1):

$$R\text{-}CH(NH_2)\text{-}COOH \qquad (1)$$

(wherein R is an optionally substituted C1-C12 alkyl group, an optionally substituted C4-C8 cycloalkyl group or an optionally substituted C6-C14 aryl group), said method comprising reacting a biological material which has an ability of converting one of the optical isomers (optical isomer I) of said amino acid to the other of the optical isomers (optical isomer II), the isomerism being on the basis of an assymetric-carbon atom to which both of an amino group and a carboxyl group are bound and said ability being not inhibited seriously

by an amino acid transferase inhibitor β-chloro-D-alanine, β-chloro-L-alanine or gabaculine, with said amino acid represented by Formula (1).

9. The method according to ~~Claim 8~~, wherein said one of the optical isomers (optical isomer I) is a D-form and said the other of the optical isomers (optical isomer II) is a L-form.